Purchasing the Cotton by CO

1861. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state whether it is a fact that CCI was directed to lift 30,000 bales of cotton from Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh to be exported to Bangladesh and Nepal if so, how much cotton has been purchased from the cotton growers by CCI after this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): In the wake of representations received from ecertain parts of the country, including Andhra Pradesh, regarding stocks of cotton with the farmers, Government has authorised the Cotton Corporation of India to meet the requirements of some of our neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, in the context of Bilateral Trade Agreement, upto 30,000 bales. The CCI has not so far been able to buy any cotton from Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh as the prices demanded by the fanners of these areas are not commercially viable for export to these countries.

Textile Mill facing closure in Rajasthan

1862. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the textile mills in Rajasthan which produce 45 per cent of the country's synthetic yarn are facing closure on ac count of non-availability of V.S.F. (Vis cose Staple Fibre);

(b) whether the Rajasthan Textile Mill$_s$ Association had demand for import of 10,000 tonnes of VSF; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to recetify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There have been some representations from Textile Industry including textile mills in Rajasthan about shor-supply of V.S.F.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reason for shortfall VSF supplies was closure of one of major manufacturing units of VSF account of non-availability of adequ quantities of water required by the Ul However, the unit is now reported have resumed normal production. Con quently, the availability of VSF is pected to improve in the next few da; A close watch is being kept on the siti tion.

पानीपत हथकरघा उद्योग के सम्बन्ध संक

1863. **श्री विनोद शर्मा** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 1 जुलाई, 1992 के "इकॉनामिक टाइम्स" में "पानीपत हैण्डलूम यूनिट्स हिट बाई स्क्रैम' शीर्षक से छपे समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि पानीपत के हथकरघा एकक गम्भीर आर्थिक संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं और वे बंद होने के कगार पर हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि लगभग 40,000 व्यक्ति इस उद्योग में कार्यरत हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस उद्योग को संकट से उबारने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या तात्कालिक उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अशोक गहलोत) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) केंद्र सरकार को ऐसी कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ग) वर्ष 1987–88 में की गई राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा गणना के अनुसार पानीपत हथकरघा उद्योग में बुनाई और आरंभिक कार्यकलापों दोनों में 13,125 लोग कार्यरत हैं । तथापि इसमें शॉडी यार्न तैयार करने वाली ईकाइयों और मदों के संसाधन में अर्जित रोजगार के आंकड़े शामिल नहीं हैं ।

(घ) पानीपत के शॉडी कताईकारों के अनुरोध पर सरकार ने बजट अभिभाषण में की गई घोषणा की समीक्षा की और ऊनी वेस्ट जो शॉडी सूत कातने वालों के लिए मूल्य कच्चा माल भी है पर लगाए गए शुल्क की स्थिति यथापूर्व बनाए रखी । सरकार पानीपत में हथकरघा निर्मित कम्बलों की रक्षा और अर्द्धसैनिक संगठनों में थोक आपूर्ति करने के लिए उपलब्ध करती है और इस प्रकार इन कम्बलों के विपणन में संवर्धन कर रही है । पानीपत के बुनकरों को अच्छे डिजाइन उपलब्ध करवाने और उन्हें बुनाई, रंगाई तथा प्रोसेसिंग में आवश्यक प्रशिक्षण देने हेतु सरकार पानीपत में एक बुनकर सेवा केंद्र चला रही है ।

Non-purchase of Jute by JCI in West Bengal

1864. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India has not been purchasing jute from the market in West Benagl;

(b) reasons for non-purchasing of jute by JCI; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Stat© Government of West Bengal contemplates setting up of an alternative corporation on the JCI pattern for purchase and marketing of jute in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Jute Corporation of India plans to purchase the quantity of raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support price in West Bengal and other parts, of the country.

(c) Press reports indicate that the Government of West Bengal is contemplating setting up a new Corporation to purchase raw jute

Closure of Raja Mills of Bangalore

1865. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be plea sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the century old Raja Mills, Bangalore a unit of NTC which employ over 1300 persons is being proposed to be closed down;

(b) whether Government propose to hand over this unit to a new independent management with staff representation instead closing down of a premier well known textile unit in the country and use it to manufacture textile only for export; and

(c) whether Government are aawre that this Raja Mill is being closed partly because some vested interests which have an eye on this valuable land and property in the heart of the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken on hte proposal to merge/amalgamate Raja Mills with the adjacent Minerva Mills under NTC.

Agreement with UNDP for RevKaWng Jute Industry

1866. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES b_e pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a new agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for revitalising the Indian Jute Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Programme covers the areas of jute agriculture, development of new products, employment generation, development of jute machinery sector, R&D